

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 are amended.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tadesse during the interview held November 16, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

**I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over EP 0 754 553. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, EP 0 754 553 does not disclose or suggest a second-scan controlling element is configured to control the second-scan driving element to move at least one of the inkjet head and a substrate in a second-scanning direction relative to the other so that at least a part of each nozzle group scans a same section of the substrate in a first direction, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly in independent claims 2-4. Further, EP 0 754 553 does not disclose or suggest a second-scan driving element is configured to move at least one of the head and the object in a second-scanning direction relative to the other so that the nozzle group scans a same section of the object in the first direction, as recited in independent claim 5.

EP 0 754 553 instead discloses on Fig. 18 and at col. 28, lines 10-15 that a plurality of ink-jet heads (120a, 120b, 120c) are scanned once in the X-direction; relatively moved by 30.6 mm in the Y-direction, and is scanned again in the X-direction. Nowhere does EP 0754 553 disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the claims.

Therefore, independent claims 1-5 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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